

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SY-10 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 260950Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2777

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PINR, YE, US

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS AND USAID ATTACKED IN TRACT

1. SUMMARY: PEACE CORPS AND USAID HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AS INSTRUMENTS OF US INTELLIGENCE IN LENGTHY MIMEOGRAPHED TRACT WIDELY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT SANAA AND WE ASSUME IN OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES AS WELL. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISTRIBUTION TRACES TO FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY. WE HAVE INFORMED YARG THAT WE BELIEVE PEACE CORPS AND USAID ACTIONS WILL CONSTITUTE BEST REBUTTAL TO THESE CHARGES BUT WE EXPECT YARG TO INVESTIGATE THIS UNDOUBTEDLY COMMUNIST-INSPIRED ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE ITS POLICIES.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 20 EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM A FRIENDLY SOURCE NEATLY MIMEOGRAPHED COPY OF 8 PAGE SINGLE SPACED TYPED DOCUMENT IN ARABIC TITLED "TOP SECRET REPORT". DOCUMENT HAS APPEARANCE OF MEMORANDUM PREPARED AT REQUEST OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRY BY A SUBORDINATE. DOCUMENT IS 90 PERCENT CANNED COMMUNIST MATERIAL WHICH WE ARE SURE HAS BEEN USED IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. INITIAL PARAGRAPHS, HOWEVER, WERE PREPARED LOCALLY. THEY DISCUSS EVENTS LEADING TO TERMINATION OF USAID PRESENCE IN 1967, WITH REPEAT OF ALLEGATIONS MADE AT THAT TIME RE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES OF AID TECHNICIANS. TRACT REVIEWS ALLEGED USE OF PEACE CORPS AND USAID WORLDWIDE, UNDER DIRECTION OF CIA, FOR ESPIONAGE. PEACE CORPS SPECIFICALLY CITED AS ZIONIST INSTRUMENTALITY. "THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" IS REFERRED TO AS SOURCE OF MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION.

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3. FROM OUR INQUIRIES IT APPEARS THAT "REPORT" WAS DISSEMINATED BY FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY ALI AL-KHODR AND ANOTHER SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL, ABDUL WAHAB EL-'ARASHI. THESE OFFICIALS TOLD FRIENDS THAT BULK OF INFORMATION CONTAINED HAS BEEN RECEIVED AS RESULT YARG REQUEST TO ARAG LEAGUE SECRETARIAT. ACTING FONMIN ASNAG INFORMS ME THAT REPORT WAS UNSOLICITED; KHODR SIGNED A COVERING LETTER TRANSMITTING REPORT TO HIM. COVERING LETTER RECOMMENDED PEACE CORPS BE EXPELLED. ASNAG STATES REPORT HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY KHODR TO ALL YARG MINISTRIES BEFORE ORIGINAL REACHED HIM.

4. AL-KHODR IS A PROTEGE OF FORMER LEFTIST PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI (NOW AMBASSADOR TO LONDON) AND WAS PLACED IN FONOFF BY HIM. THERE IS GOOD EVIDENCE THAT AL-AYNI HAS LONG BEEN IN PAY OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT. BEFORE THIS INCIDENT WE HAD BEEN AWARE FROM ASNAG, NU'MAN AND OTHERS THAT STEPS BEING TAKEN TO REMOVE AL-KHODR FROM HIS HIGH POSITION. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT HE KNEW HE WAS ON THE WAY OUT AND THEREFORE HAD LITTLE TO LOSE BY ACTING ON FOREIGN INSTRUCTION TO MAKE THIS LAST GESTURE AGAINST US AND PRESENT YARG. WE BELIEVE BUT CANNOT YET PROVE THAT KHODR PROBABLY RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVE.

5. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH YARG LEADERS SINCE APPEARANCE OF TRACT, WE HAVE SAID WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO REBUT ITS PATENTLY FALSE ALLEGATIONS. PERFORMANCES OF PEACE CORPS AND USAID, WE HAVE STATED, WILL STAND ON THEIR OWN AS MOST EFFECTIVE REPLY. TO PRESIDENT IRYANI AND OTHERS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE SUGGESTED YARG WOULD BE WELL ADVISED CARRY OUT FULL INVESTIGATION OF THIS EFFORT TO SABOTAGE ITS OWN OFFICIAL CONSIDERED POLICY. WE AWARE PRESIDENT DEEPLY CONCERNED AND BELIEVES ACTION BY THESE FONOFF OFFICIALS WAS AN EFFORT HURT DEP PRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN WHO HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED PEACE CORPS AND USAID PRESENCE. PRESIDENT CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF BOTH OFFICIALS TO POSTS ABROAD.

6. WE ARE FORWARDING TRACT UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM. UPON ITS RECEIPT IN DEPARTMENT WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER LANGUAGE IS IDENTICAL OR NEARLY SO TO ANY WHICH HAS APPEARED ELSEWHERE AND IF SO BY WHOM DISTRIBUTED.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AID MISSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANAA01909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CRAWFORD
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973099/aaaaagdj.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEACE CORPS AND USAID ATTACKED IN TRACT
TAGS: EAID, PINR, YE, US, PEACE CORPS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005